THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana of the Ministry of Industry, loans are facilitated to educated unemployed youth, as per the eligibility criteria laid down under the scheme. As per reports available from States/UTs, 59004 SC/ST beneficiaries have been provided loans since inception of the scheme.

(b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana loans are facilitated to educated unemployed youths. Self-employment is the primary objective of the scheme, though some scavengers may get rehabilitated. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under their Scheme of Rehabilitation of Scavengers rehabilitated 60565 scavengers in 1996-97. By and large scavengers belong to the Scheduled castes. In some areas/pockets, scavengers do not belong to the scheduled caste community, but their number is very small.

Disputes under arbitration in PSUs

1261. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disputes under arbitration in various Public Sector Undertakings, Undertaking-wise, as on 31st March, 98;

(b) total number of cases decided during the year 1994-95 and awards implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that backlog of arbitration cases and cases of outstanding disputed claims are mounting every year and have assumed serious proportion;

(d) whether the problem of settling outstanding dispute/claims expeditiously has been considered in all its aspects and a regular body of experts is proposed to be set up for speedy disposal of claims/cases; and

(e) the details of proposals under consideration/finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) As on 31.3.98 there are total 33 commercial disputes in Permanent Machinery of Arbitrators in Deptt. of Public Enterprises between various Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) During the year 1994-95, seven cases were decided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to set up any other regular body of experts for settling the disputes between PSUs.

Cost overrun of PSUs

1262. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost overrun of PSUs on account of rise in input costs mainly oil, coal and freight traffic; and

(b) whether Government had visualised this cost overrun before formulating the planning?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The Central Sector projects are approved at estimated costs corresponding to the price level existing in the year of approval. As on December, 1997, 454 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, monitored by the Government, had a total cost overrun of Rs. 21,063 crores including cost overrun on account of rise in input costs of oil, coal and freight traffic as also other factors with respect to their latest approved cost of Rs. 1,46,168 crores.

(b) The increase in cost during the period of construction due to cost escalation including rise in input costs on account of oil, coal, freight traffic and other factors depending upon the nature of a project is visualised by the project authorities and they are included in the revised cost estimates of projects.